



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE:
July 20, 2021

Big Six Coffers Continue to Recover From Pandemic Year Lull

Combined fund-raising by the two state parties and four legislative leadership committees totaled \$4.8 million for the first six months of 2021, a 260 percent increase from the same period last year and the most since 2007, according to reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

“What a difference a year makes. While the COVID-19 crisis is not over, there is more optimism now than last year and that is evident in the fund-raising totals so far,” said Jeff Brindle, ELEC’s Executive Director.

Mid-year spending also hit a 14-year high mark at \$3.5 million while a cash-on-hand total of \$2.7 million is the most since 2013.

**TABLE 1
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITY BY “BIG SIX”
AT END OF SECOND QUARTER BY YEAR**

BOTH PARTIES	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*	STATE ELECTIONS**
2007	\$5,776,859	\$2,328,316	\$8,015,277	\$7,911,808	S/A
2008	\$3,438,622	\$2,238,356	\$1,577,591	\$ 918,612	
2009	\$3,653,103	\$1,811,223	\$3,682,236	\$3,548,060	G/A
2010	\$2,175,742	\$1,637,673	\$1,835,526	\$1,666,742	
2011	\$3,684,467	\$1,915,020	\$3,329,478	\$3,051,770	S/A
2012	\$2,988,610	\$2,590,387	\$1,426,366	\$1,193,221	
2013	\$3,382,737	\$1,874,081	\$3,189,889	\$3,093,711	G/S/A
2014	\$1,276,109	\$1,319,714	\$ 800,994	\$ 287,246	
2015	\$2,476,599	\$1,983,389	\$2,160,318	\$1,624,601	A
2016	\$1,661,559	\$1,513,987	\$1,127,086	\$ 979,443	
2017	\$2,751,561	\$2,205,599	\$2,263,401	\$2,178,899	G/S/A
2018	\$2,991,664	\$2,416,353	\$1,321,894	\$1,237,392	
2019	\$2,283,313	\$1,729,263	\$2,075,620	\$1,988,194	A¹
2020	\$1,342,492	\$1,090,629	\$ 911,929	\$ 807,204	
2021	\$4,836,037	\$3,529,208	\$2,678,213	\$2,613,806	G/S/A

*Net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to and by the committee.

**G=Gubernatorial; S=Senate; A=Assembly

“Another factor this year is that New Jersey is one of only two states- the other is Virginia- with a governor’s race,” he said.

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¹ There was also a special legislative election for the first legislative district Senate seat.

Both parties already are benefiting from large checks from national committees.

The Democratic Governors Association already has sent \$25,000 checks each to the Democratic State Committee and Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee. It helps that Governor Phil Murphy, who is running for reelection against Republican Jack Ciattarelli, is finance chairman of the national group.

On the Republican side, the Republican State Leadership committee has sent a \$25,000 check to the Senate Republican Majority and \$12,500 to the Republican State Committee.

“With the governor’s seat and all 120 legislative seats at stake, past years suggest this is just the beginning of what is likely to be sizeable spending by national groups on New Jersey’s looming elections,” said Brindle.

Democrats have controlled the governor’s seat since January 2018 and both legislative houses since January 2002. Their majority status has translated into a fund-raising advantage.

So far this year, Democratic committees have raised more than four times as much as their Republican counterparts, spent almost four times more and have nearly four times more cash in reserve.

TABLE 2
FUNDRAISING BY “BIG SIX” COMMITTEES
JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
New Jersey Republican State Committee	\$ 216,352	\$ 281,054	\$ 94,150	\$ 94,150
Senate Republican Majority	\$ 400,394	\$ 323,695	\$ 119,340	\$ 119,340
Assembly Republican Victory	\$ 288,219	\$ 125,637	\$ 343,138	\$ 343,138
SubTotal-Republicans	\$ 904,965	\$ 730,386	\$ 556,627	\$ 556,627
DEMOCRATS				
New Jersey Democratic State Committee	\$2,543,175	\$1,535,351	\$1,195,451	\$1,181,483
Senate Democratic Majority	\$ 501,800	\$ 454,477	\$ 489,265	\$ 469,265
Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee	\$ 886,097	\$ 808,994	\$ 436,870	\$ 406,432
SubTotal-Democrats	\$3,931,072	\$2,798,822	\$2,121,586	\$2,057,179
Total-Both Parties	\$4,836,037	\$3,529,208	\$2,678,213	\$2,613,806

*Net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee.

Compared to 2020, both parties have seen across-the-board improvement in their campaign finance totals during the first six months of 2021.

For instance, Democratic fund-raising is up 308 percent while Republican collections are up 111 percent with a combined average of 260 percent versus 2020.

TABLE 3
CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACTIVITIES FOR “BIX SIX”
COMMITTEES THROUGH SECOND QUARTER
2021 VERSUS 2020

REPUBLICANS	RAISED	SPENT	CASH-ON-HAND	NET WORTH*
2020	\$ 428,466	\$ 343,791	\$ 289,802	\$ 278,162
2021	\$ 904,965	\$ 730,386	\$ 556,627	\$ 556,627
Difference-Dollars	\$ 476,499	\$ 386,595	\$ 266,825	\$ 278,465
Difference-%	111%	112%	92%	100%
DEMOCRATS				
2020	\$ 963,240	\$ 785,285	\$ 516,495	\$ 391,541
2021	\$3,931,072	\$2,798,822	\$2,121,586	\$2,057,179
Difference-Dollars	\$2,967,832	\$2,013,537	\$1,605,091	\$1,665,638
Difference-%	308%	256%	311%	425%
BOTH PARTIES				
2020	\$1,342,492	\$1,090,629	\$ 911,929	\$ 807,204
2021	\$4,836,037	\$3,529,208	\$2,678,213	\$2,613,806
Difference-Dollars	\$3,493,545	\$2,438,579	\$1,766,284	\$1,806,602
Difference-%	260%	224%	194%	224%

*Net worth is cash-on-hand adjusted for debts owed to or by the committee.

Despite the short-term rebound, Brindle said the legislature must take more steps to strengthen parties long-term.

These changes include raising general contribution limits that have been frozen since 2005, ending tight restrictions on contributions by public contractors while imposing them on receipts by political action committees (PACs), and requiring independent expenditure committees to conform to the state public disclosure rules as candidates, parties and traditional PACs.

“It is good seeing both parties enjoying a bump from last year, when the pandemic initially wreaked havoc with fund-raising. However, party committees, which are more accountable and transparent than independent committees, need legislative reforms to regain their influence in state elections,” Brindle said.

State Parties and Legislative Leadership Committees are required to report their financial activity to the Commission on a quarterly basis. The reports are available on ELEC’s website at www.elec.state.nj.us. ELEC also can be accessed on Facebook (www.facebook.com/NJElectionLaw) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/elecnj).

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